

pieces of legislation. His tireless work on the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) in this Congress is a prime example. He was present at every Sunday morning staff negotiation and every late night Members' conference, guiding both staff and Members to compromises that allowed House and Senate, Democrat and Republican, all to claim victory. And TEA-21 is but one example.

Looking back at the achievements of our Committee in the last two decades—whether the landmark highway, highway safety, and transit legislation of 1991, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act; the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997; authorizing the construction of the largest Federal building outside the Pentagon, the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center; or the Committee's long-standing efforts to take the transportation trust funds off budget, Sante's contribution has always been compelling, leading the way to the final compromises that became law.

In all of these initiatives, Sante has always fought for what was best for the Committee, the Congress, and the country. He has always enjoyed working in a bipartisan manner when he could, or a partisan manner when he had to.

In an ordinary day, Sante is just as likely to be talking to an intern who's trying to learn about Congress, as he is to be meeting with Members discussing important legislative and policy issues, or talking to executive branch agency heads. He has been invaluable to many young students as a mentor. In fact, one of these former interns that Sante took under his wing is Ward McCarragher, who has just been named the Committee's Democratic Chief Counsel.

I have enjoyed working with Sante over these many years, admiring his irrepressible spirit and respecting his talent to have fun at work. He has helped each of us fully appreciate and put into practiced the universal truth: "Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves, for they shall never cease to be amused." I recently saw a Frank & Ernest cartoon in the Post which pictured a smiling job applicant saying to the personnel director, "I don't really have an employment history. It's more a series of funny stories." Sante Esposito immediately came to mind. What a gift he has! Bright, talented, intense and hard-working, yet able to find and enjoy every bit of humor life holds.

As a friend and a colleague, Sante will be missed on our Committee. While we are fortunate to have his protégé in place, Sante's spirit and sense of fun will be as difficult to replace as his expertise on the intricacies of the legislative process. We will miss his daily presence as a coworker, but we are sure to continue hearing from him in his new position as a legislative advocate.

I join his many friends in wishing Sante, his lovely wife Nancy, and his children, Jennifer, Mike, Erin and Bryan all the best of everything good in the years ahead.

JUDGE MICHAEL J. SKWIERAWSKI  
RECEIVES POLISH-AMERICAN  
HERITAGE AWARD

### HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 1998*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Milwaukee County's chief circuit judge Michael J. Skwierawski for his outstanding accomplishments, service to the community and his contributions to further the heritage of Polish-Americans.

A native of West Allis, Judge Skwierawski graduated from Georgetown University Law School in 1967. After 11 years in private practice and in the district attorney's office, he was appointed a circuit judge in 1978 and elected in 1979 serving the court for two decades, earning a reputation as a keen legal mind and able administrator.

Rated among the best by the Milwaukee Bar Association, Judge Skwierawski has served as presiding judge of civil court, presiding judge for court operations, and deputy chief judge among other leadership roles. In light of this record of accomplishment, the Wisconsin Supreme Court this year appointed Judge Skwierawski chief judge of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

Judge Skwierawski's accomplishments don't stop at the courthouse doors. His influence and service are known throughout the community, most notably as one of the guiding influences behind Polish Fest. Starting as a volunteer at the fest's inception, Judge Skwierawski again demonstrated leadership as president of Polish Fest.

In addition to numerous memberships in civic groups, Judge Skwierawski has coached basketball and baseball at St. Sebastian's School for girls and boys. He is married to Gloria Skwierawski and they are parents to four children.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Judge Michael J. Skwierawski, a great citizen and friend to the Polish-American community, and recipient this year of the Polish-American Heritage's Appreciation Award for his many years of devoted voluntary service to the Polish National Alliance, Polish Fest and the local community.

### ENERGY CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

### HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 28, 1998*

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, later this week we are planning to vote on almost \$4 billion in emergency aid for America's farmers. This package is a combination of relief from the natural disasters much of the country has experienced this year, and market loss assistance. In particular, the market loss provision addresses the collapse of foreign markets which account for almost 40% of what we produce. In 1996, we began a much needed

revision of our nation's farm policy. We passed the Freedom to Farm Act to phase out farmer's dependency on government subsidy and give them the flexibility to choose which crops to plant, and how to plant them. In addition we encouraged farmers to seek out new markets for their products, and they have. A great example of a developing market is biodiesel: an alternative fuel which is derived from crops such as soybeans, rapeseed, canola and more.

H.R. 4017, the Energy Conservation Reauthorization Act, also provides an important means to help farmers move into markets for biodiesel. This bill is not a subsidy, as Washington has tried in the past, but amends the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT) to allow biodiesel to be considered as an alternative fuel. EPACT requires that federal, state, and limited private fleets acquire alternatively fueled vehicles.

For the first time under EPACT, H.R. 4017 would provide strong incentives to provide for fleet managers to actually use the alternative fuel rather than simply acquire additional alternative fueled vehicles that may never run on the alternative fuels for which they were designed. H.R. 4017 enables fleet managers to use blends of at least 20% biodiesel to comply with EPACT requirements. Fleets may count the biodiesel portion of that blend toward a portion of their annual EPACT vehicle purchase requirement. A minimum of 450 gallons of biodiesel must be purchased and actually used by a covered fleet to qualify the use of fuel as a substitute for a vehicle acquisition. The provision does not create any new mandates or impose any new requirements on covered fleets. Instead it rewards the use of alternative fuel to achieve the goals of EPACT, to displace imported petroleum.

In addition to providing an alternative to foreign oil, biodiesel helps reduce emissions. Biodiesel runs cleaner than regular diesel fuel which means less particulate matter, hydrocarbons, and carbon monoxide is released into the atmosphere. This alternative fuel would be used primarily by heavy-duty fleet vehicles, such as city buses, boats and trucks.

What we are attempting to do with this provision is broaden the field of options in complying with the mandates of EPACT, not subsidize a particular fuel. This provision does not require new spending. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that this provision will save the federal government \$40 million over the next 5 years. I fully support H.R. 4017, because I appreciate the way it encourages innovation and development as a way of addressing environmental issues.

This bill helps to create a significant new market for Hoosier soybean farmers. According to USDA, H.R. 4017 may add as much as 7 cents to the value of a bushel of soybeans. When we help increase real demand for soybeans, not simply subsidize them, we increase the price and put more dollars in the hands of working family farmers. I am pleased that in addition to immediate relief, this Congress is taking concrete steps to ensure the survival and prosperity of Hoosier farmers.